

Baills Denied Ex-C.I.A. Employee Accused of Spying for the Chinese

By ROBIN TONER

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ALEXANDRIA, Va., Nov. 27 — Larry Wu-Tai Chin, accused of spying for China for more than 30 years, was denied bail today after a Federal prosecutor argued that he was likely to flee the country and would be welcomed by the Chinese "with open arms."

In testimony at the hearing, two agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation provided new details of the Government's case against Mr. Chin, a former employee of the Central Intelligence Agency who was arrested Saturday. United States Magistrate W. Curtis Sewell denied the bail.

Mark Johnson, one of the agents, testified that Mr. Chin, who worked for the intelligence agency from 1952 to his retirement in 1981, was such a valued agent to the Chinese that high government officials honored him at a banquet in Peking in 1982.

\$26,000 Bank Account Reported

Mr. Johnson also testified that about a year ago, in talking to a woman whom the bureau identified as his mistress, Mr. Chin discussed a permanent relocation to China. The agent also said that Mr. Chin, who is accused of receiving more than \$140,000 from the Chinese for information, had "at least three" bank accounts in Hong Kong, including one that contained \$26,000 in 1983 and another that the authorities said they believed was for gold bullion.

Peter Meyers, Mr. Chin's attorney, in arguing for his client's release on bond pending trial, termed the Government's case "very weak." He said it was based on a grueling six-hour interrogation filled with "subtle psychological coercion."

Joseph Aronica, the prosecutor, said Mr. Chin "has lived basically a lie for more than 30 years." Later he said, "The man's mind and heart have been in China."

Mr. Aronica said the Government believed Mr. Chin would flee to China if released on bond, adding, "He would be welcomed by the Chinese intelligence service with open arms."

Mr. Johnson testified today that much of the Government's case was based on statements made by Mr. Chin in a long interrogation Friday night. It was the circumstances of that interrogation that formed the thrust of the defense's arguments today.

Mr. Meyers has indicated that Mr. Chin would plead not guilty to the charge against him, conspiracy to commit espionage. Mr. Meyers said today that in questioning by the bureau agents, Mr. Chin initially denied any wrongdoing, then told the agents that he wanted to remain silent. At another point, Mr. Meyers said, Mr. Chin said he wanted to talk to a lawyer. One of the agents said he was a lawyer, Mr. Meyers said.

When Mr. Chin asked the agent if he could act as Mr. Chin's lawyer, the agents laughed, Mr. Meyers said. The conditions of that interrogation, Mr. Meyers said, render any statements made by Mr. Chin "totally unreliable" and "worthless."

The significance of Mr. Chin's role within the intelligence agency, where he worked for the Foreign Broadcast Information Service, was also a subject of dispute at today's hearing. Mr. Meyers presented Mr. Chin as a translator who worked with Chinese publications and broadcasts. The Government presented testimony that Mr. Chin had access to documents that were classified "secret, confidential and above."

Mr. Johnson, the bureau agent, testified that some "shipments" Mr. Chin provided to the Chinese were "so voluminous" that it took two translators two months to process them and forward them to Chinese Government officials.

China Denies Chin Tie

PEKING, Nov. 27 (UPI) — In its first public comment on the espionage case, China denied having any connection to Mr. Chin. "We have nothing to do with that man," said a Foreign Ministry spokesman, Li Zhaoxing.